

# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Montana State Office  
5001 Southgate Drive  
P.O. Box 36800  
Billings, Montana 59107-6800  
<http://www.mt.blm.gov/>

MTM 90756

### **Notice of Competitive Lease Sale Oil and Gas**

**May 30, 2001**

The Montana State Office is holding a competitive oral sale of Federal lands in the States of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota for oil and gas leasing. We are attaching a list that includes the parcel numbers, legal land descriptions and corresponding stipulations. The list is available on the Internet at:  
<http://www.mt.blm.gov/oilgas>.

#### **When and where will the sale take place?**

**When:** The competitive sale begins at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 30, 2001. The sale room opens at 8:00 a.m. for registration and assignment of bidder numbers.

**Where:** We will hold the sale at the Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana. Parking is available.

**Access:** The sale room is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need a sign language interpreter or materials in an alternate format, please tell us no later than one week before the sale. You may contact Elaine Kaufman at (406) 896-5108 or Joan Seibert at (406) 896-5093.

#### **How do I register as a bidder?**

Before the sale starts, you must complete a bidder registration form to obtain a bidding number. The forms are available at the registration desk.

#### **What is the sale process?**

Starting at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the sale:

- the auctioneer offers the parcels in the order they are shown on the attached list;
- registered bidders make oral bids on a per-acre basis for all acres in a parcel;
- the winning bid is the highest oral bid equal to or exceeding the minimum \$2.00 bid;
- the decision of the auctioneer is final; and
- names of high bidders (lessees) remain confidential until the results list is available.

If a parcel contains fractional acreage, round it up to the next whole acre. For example, a parcel of 100.48 acres requires a minimum bid of \$202 (101 acres x \$2).

If the United States owns less than 100 percent of the oil and gas rights in a parcel, we will issue the lease for the percentage of interest the United States owns. You must calculate your bid and advance rental payment on the gross acreage in the parcel. For example, if the U.S. owns 50 percent of the oil and gas in a 100.48 acre parcel, the minimum bid is \$202 (101 acres x \$2) and the advance rental due is \$151.50 (101 acres x \$1.50).

What conditions apply to the lease sale?

- **Parcel withdrawal or sale cancellation:** We reserve the right to withdraw any or all parcels before the sale begins. If we withdraw parcels or cancel a sale, we will post a notice in our Public Records and Information Center and announce the withdrawn parcels at the sale.
- **Lease terms:** Leases issue for a primary term of 10 years. They continue beyond the primary term as long as the lease is producing in paying quantities or receiving production from another source. Rental is \$1.50 per acre for the first 5 years (\$2 per acre after that) until production begins. Once a lease is producing, we charge a royalty of 12.5 percent on the production removed or sold from the lease. You will find other lease terms on our standard lease form (Form 3100-11, June 1988 or later edition).
- **Stipulations:** Some parcels are subject to surface use restrictions or conditions affecting how you conduct operations on the lands. The stipulations become part of the lease and replace any inconsistent provisions of the lease form.
- **Bid form:** On the day of the sale, successful bidders must submit a properly completed lease bid form (Form 3000-2, October 1989 or later edition) along with their payment. The bid form is a legally binding offer to accept a lease and all its terms and conditions. When the prospective lessee or an authorized representative signs the bid form, they certify the lessee meets the conditions of 43 CFR 3102.5-2 and complies with 18 U.S.C. 1860, a law that prohibits unlawful combinations, intimidation of bidders, and collusion among bidders. You cannot withdraw your bid.
- **Payment:**
  - **minimum due by 4:00 p.m. on day of sale:**
    - Bonus bid deposit of \$2.00 per acre or fraction thereof;
    - First year's rent of \$1.50 per acre or fraction thereof except for future interest parcels; and
    - \$75 nonrefundable administrative fee
  - **remaining balance due by 4:00 p.m. on June 13, 2001**
    - If you don't pay in full by this date, you lose the right to the lease and all the money you paid the day of the sale. We may offer the parcel in a future sale.
- **Method of payment:** You can pay by:
  - personal check;
  - certified check;
  - money order; or
  - credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover).

Make checks payable to: **Department of the Interior-BLM.** We do not accept cash. If you previously paid us with a check backed by insufficient funds, we will require a guaranteed payment, such as a certified check.

- **Lease issuance:** After we receive the bid forms and all monies due, we can issue the lease. The lease effective date is the first day of the month following the month we sign it. We can make the lease effective the first day of the month in which we sign it, if you ask us in writing before we sign the lease.

**How can I find out the results of this sale?**

We post the sale results in our Public Records and Information Center and the Internet at: <http://www.mt.blm.gov/oilgas>. You can buy a \$5/\$10 printed copy of the results list from the Public Records and Information Center.

**How do I file a noncompetitive offer after the sale?**

Lands that do not receive a bid and are not subject to a pre-sale offer are available for a two-year period beginning the day after the sale. To file a noncompetitive offer, you must submit:

- three copies of standard lease form (Form 3100-11, June 1988 or later edition) with lands described as specified in our regulations at 43 CFR 3110.5;
- \$75 non-refundable administrative fee; and
- first year's advance rental (\$1.50 per acre or fraction thereof)

Place offers filed on the day of the sale and the first business day after the sale in the drop box in the Public Records and Information Center. We consider those offers simultaneously filed. When a parcel receives more than one filing by 4 p.m. on the day after the sale, we will hold a drawing to determine the winner. Offers filed after this time period, receive priority according to the date and time of filing in this office.

**How do I file a noncompetitive pre-sale offer?**

Under our regulations at 43 CFR 3110.1(a), you may file a noncompetitive pre-sale offer for lands that:

- are available; and
- have not been under lease during the previous one-year period; or
- have not been in a competitive lease sale within the previous two-year period.

Once we post a competitive sale notice, you cannot file a pre-sale offer for lands shown on the notice.

To file a pre-sale offer, you must submit:

- three copies of standard lease form (Form 3100-11, June 1988 or later edition) with lands described as specified in our regulations at 43 CFR 3110.5;
- \$75 non-refundable administrative fee; and
- first year's advance rental (\$1.50 per acre or fraction thereof)

If we don't receive a bid at the sale for the parcel(s) contained in your pre-sale offer, we will issue the lease. You can withdraw your offer prior to the date we sign your lease. Your pre-sale offer is your consent to the terms and conditions of the lease, including any additional stipulations advertised in the Competitive Sale Notice.

**How do I nominate lands for future sales?**

- file a letter with this office describing the lands you want put up for sale;
- file a pre-sale offer

**Who should I contact if I have a question?**

For more information, contact Trish Cook at (406) 896-5110.

**When is the next competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled in Montana?**

We are tentatively holding our next competitive sale on July 31, 2001.

Karen L. Johnson, Chief  
Fluids Adjudication Section

**OFFICIAL POSTING DATE MUST BE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 13, 2001.**

The official posting date will be noted on the copy posted in the Information Access Center of the Bureau of Land Management, Billings, Montana.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Any noncompetitive offers received for lands that are listed on the Notice from the time the list is officially posted in the Montana State Office Public Room until the first business day following the completion of the sale will be rejected as unavailable for filing per 43 CFR 3110.1(a)(ii).

THE FOLLOWING NOTICE WILL BE ATTACHED TO ALL ISSUED LEASES

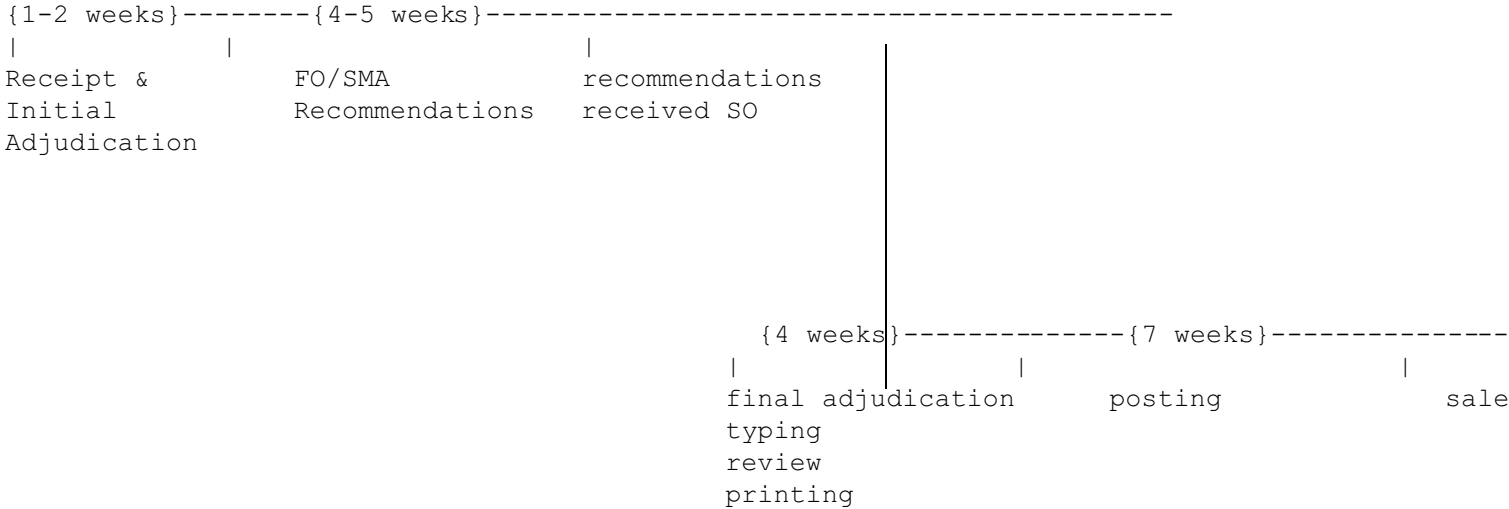
**NOTICE TO LESSEE**

**Provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) of 1920, as amended by the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, affect an entity's qualifications to obtain an oil and gas lease. Section 2(a)(2)(A) of the MLA, 30 U.S.C. 201(a)(2)(A), requires that any entity that holds and has held a Federal coal lease for 10 years beginning on or after August 4, 1976, and who is not producing coal in commercial quantities from each such lease, cannot qualify for the issuance of any other lease granted under the MLA. Compliance by coal lessees with Section 2(a)(2)(A) is explained in 43 CFR 3472.**

**In accordance with the terms of this oil and gas lease with respect to compliance by the initial lessee with qualifications concerning Federal coal lease holdings, all assignees and transferees are hereby notified that this oil and gas lease is subject to cancellation if: (1) the initial lessee as assignor or as transferor has falsely certified compliance with Section 2(a)(2)(A) or (2) because of a denial or disapproval by a State Office of a pending coal action, i.e., arms-length assignment, relinquishment, or logical mining unit, the initial lessee as assignor or as transferor is no longer in compliance with Section 2(a)(2)(A). The assignee or transferee does not qualify as a bona fide purchaser and, thus, has no rights to bona fide purchaser protection in the event of cancellation of this lease due to noncompliance with Section 2(a)(2)(A).**

**Information regarding assignor or transferor compliance with Section 2(a)(2)(A) is contained in the lease case file as well as in other Bureau of Land Management records available through the State Office issuing this lease.**

**TIMELINE TO PROCESS EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)  
OR PRESALE OFFERS**



**Total time required to process EOI/Offer  
4-5 months {16-18 weeks}**

SMA-Surface Management Agency  
ie: Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation  
FO-BLM Field Office  
SO-Montana State Office